

28 May 1959

GRA Contribution to DD/I Newsletter

To meet a critical intelligence need for reliable maps of Soviet cities, the Geographic Area is currently engaged in a town plan program. Although the program was initiated specifically for operational purposes in response to a request from DD/P, the plans can be used in a variety of other ways such as briefings, interrogations, locating and plotting intelligence targets, and the travel folder program. The plans have an unusually high degree of reliability.

The list of proposed plans currently includes nearly a hundred important cities in the Soviet Union. Thus far, 6 plans have been completed, and 24 others are presently in the production line. The completed plans are Novosibirsk, Nakhichevan' and Vicinity, Chinkent, Astara and Vicinity, Alma-Ata, and Stalinabad. The scale of the maps is 1:25,000 and the classification SECRET. The present phase of the program includes the following types of information (as available): street layouts and names, intra-urban transportation routes, railroads, principal topographic features, airfields, parks, and city rayons.

Distribution:

O&1 -- SA/RR

2 -- Ch/G

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Since 1945, the Geographic Area has been conducting an overt map collection program through the [REDACTED] 25X1C4a

25X1C4a [REDACTED] This activity results in the acquisition of about 70,000 map sheets per year. These materials are distributed among the mapping and intelligence organizations of the U.S. Government on the basis of defined requirements.

During the past year, an intensified effort has been under way to obtain topographic maps from the Sovbloc. These maps, rated in the highest priority category for collection action, are of great significance to the missiles programs. They are not obtainable through the overt Departmental program, and the Geographic Area is directing every effort to the substantive guidance of the DD/P in the covert collection of these maps. This program includes the development of inter-agency cooperation in requirements, operational information, utilization of legal travelers and conference participants for elicitation of information about mapping organizations, individuals, and programs in the Bloc, and research and analysis of all source materials for collection aids.

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